belliferous vegetables, from which they differ in their berried fruit. The genus most near to Panax is unquestionably *Aralia*, which differs only in the number of styles, a character extremely variable in the Ginsengs.*

The root of the Ginseng has an agreeable taste, consisting of a mixture of sweet and bitter, with some aromatic pungency. Water, both cold and hot, receives a gummy mucus, which is precipitated by alcohol. The watery extract has the taste and smell of the root in a strong degree. The distilled water gives evidence of a volatile oil, and has the aroma, without the sweetness of the root. The common tests indicate the presence of but little resin, and no tannin.

As far as Ginseng has been tried medicinally in this country, and in Europe, its virtues do not appear, by any means, to justify the high estimation of it by the Chinese. That it is not a very active substance, is proved by the fact, that a whole root may be eaten without inconvenience. Its place in the materia medica is among demulcents. It approaches more nearly to liquorice, than to any other medicine in its taste and exter-

* *Panax trifolium*, a beautiful little plant, with nearly the herb of Anemone nemorosa, has always three styles and a tricoccous berry. P. quinquefolium varies from one to three styles, though the usual number is two.

nal qualities. Its extract forms a very neat preparation, and is by no means unpleasant to the taste. Dr. Fothergill tells us, that "in tedious chronic coughs, incident to people in years, a decoction of it has been of service. It consists of a lubricating mucilage combined with some degree of aromatic warmth."

Ginseng is principally sold by our druggists as a masticatory, many people having acquired an habitual fondness for chewing it. It is certainly one of the most innocent articles for this purpose.

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